

radiation of stars and wisps in a fan-shaped group, 68 *Orionis* being approximately the centre. The only counterpart to this which the author has seen is one on a far larger scale, visible to the naked eye, but much less striking; viz. a radiation from near the Pole star to the Milky Way in the semicircle from  $\epsilon$  *Ursæ Minoris* to  $\beta$  *Camelopardi*.

Two maps and five figures accompany the paper; the latter exhibit the groupings of the various position-angles, showing a preponderance at an average deviation of  $15^\circ$  from the direction of Gould's Galactic Equator, viz. at a position-angle of  $345^\circ$  with that great circle, and more nearly parallel with a Galactic Equator derived from Proctor's chart of the *Durchmusterung* stars. There is a marked deficiency of position-angles at right angles to the Galactic Equator of those in the great cluster 35 *Messier*, as well as of the wisps.

The terms "nebulous wisps" and "nebulosity" have been given to that faint and diffused luminosity, usually in long and narrow bands, which when viewed with higher powers is sometimes resolved into stars, sometimes remains partially or wholly unresolved, and sometimes disappears altogether. When resolved, it in some cases shows very small and densely packed stars, in others widely scattered stars not much too faint to be individually visible with the lower power.

One conclusion derived from the investigation is that the stars and wisps in parallel lines are probably in the same region of space; and therefore that the majority of the stars—at least of those down to the 9th or 10th magnitude—in extensive tracts of the area examined are really near one another.

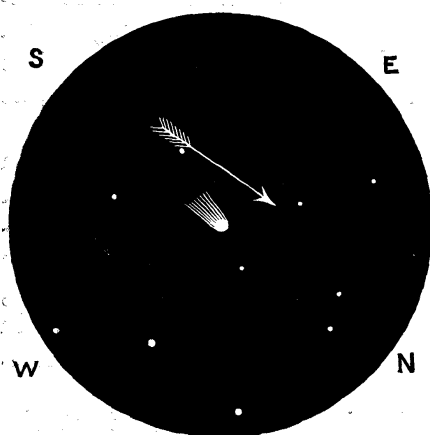
The paper is offered as a contribution to a subject till lately much neglected, in the hope that the observations will be supplemented by those of others, whether in confirmation or otherwise.

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*Discovery of Comet Brooks 1890.* By William R. Brooks.

I have the honour to announce to the Society my discovery, on March 19, 16 hours (standard, 75th meridian time), of a new comet in approximate R.A.  $21^h 9^m$ , Dec.  $+5^\circ 35'$ . I at once felt confident that the object was a comet, for the region has been thoroughly searched many times, and I had no record of a nebula in that place. On turning to Dr. Dreyer's "New General Catalogue of Nebulae," published in the *Memoirs* of the Royal Astronomical Society, it was found that the nearest nebula recorded there was No. 7045 = J.H. 2108, which was  $2^\circ$  away, and marked  $\epsilon$  F, while my object was quite bright. The morning dawn advanced rapidly, however, and obliterated the object before I was positive of motion, but suspected a slight motion northward. The Harvard, Lick, and Warner Observatories

were therefore promptly notified of the suspected object, with a request to verify. With myself the three succeeding mornings were tantalisingly cloudy. On the fourth morning, however, March 23, at 16 hours, it was beautifully clear, and turning the telescope to the place I at once found the comet less than one and one half degrees north, and slightly east of the discovery position, and in approximate R.A.  $21^h 10^m 30^s$ , Dec.  $+7^\circ 15'$ . This gave a daily motion of  $22^s$  east, and  $25'$  north. The two telescopic fields are shown in figs. 1 and 2, fig. 1 being the field of discovery.



1. Discovery field of Comet Brooks,  
1890 March 19<sup>d</sup> 16<sup>h</sup>.



2. Telescopic field of Comet Brooks,  
1890 March 23<sup>d</sup> 16<sup>h</sup>.

The comet is rather bright, telescopic, with stellar nucleus, and a short, broad tail. The discovery was made with the  $10\frac{1}{8}$ -inch refractor, with a chromatic positive eyepiece, giving a mag. power of 40, and a field of  $1^\circ 20'$ .

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1890 March 24.

#### *Erratum.*

In Dr. Spitta's paper, page 323, second paragraph, line 4:—

*For ratio of 1 : 6.40 read ratio of 1 : 16.40.*